

Application No.: 10/659,378
Art Unit: 3673

Attorney Docket No. 22330.00
Confirmation No. 2995

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claim 1 and canceled Claim 2. Claims 1 and 3-10 remain pending in the present application. Claim 1 is an independent claim.

In the recent Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Reder (U.S. Patent No. 5,148,564). Claim 3-5 were under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reder in view of Sramek (U.S. Patent No. 5,926,880), or further in view of Redwill (U.S. Patent No. 5,313,678). The Examiner allowed Claims 6-10 and indicated that Claim 2 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and of any intervening claims.

The Examiner objected to the drawings, specifically Figure 3, as failing to show that the wrap 16 is "fabricated of one-inch thick polyester material" as stated on page 5 of the original specification. Applicant concurs that the stated thickness of the wrap layer is disproportionate to the thickness of the insert layer as shown in Figure 3. It appears that the Applicant intended that the wrap 16 be fabricated from a one-inch --wide-- polyester tape material as opposed to a one-inch thick polyester material. Notwithstanding, Applicant has amended the specification at page 5 to delete the specific reference to the wrap's thickness as being inconsistent with the original drawings. Applicant respectfully submits that the original drawings are in compliance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.84 and that no new matter is involved by the present revision to the specification.

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The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 2. The incorporated Claim 2 has been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that for at least these reasons, amended independent Claim 1 and corresponding dependent Claims 3-5 are allowable over the prior art applied of record.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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RCL:dht/gps